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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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E.O. 12065: GDS 3/27/86 (HALLMAN, WILLIAM H.) OR-P
TAGS: PEPR SHUM MASS PINT PARM UNHCR US AR
SUBJECT: (C) AMBASSADOR SMITH'S CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ARGENTINE
GOVERNMENT: FIRST DAY'S TALK AT FOREIGN MINISTRY (MARCH 24)

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR SMITH'S FIRST ROUND OF TALKS AT
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS--WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
PASTOR LEADING THE ARGENTINE SIDE--COVERED HUMAN RIGHTS
(INCLUDING SECURITY OF THE PERSON AND ARGENTINE PROGRESS
TOWARD DEMOCRACY), NUCLEAR ISSUES, PROSPECTS FOR US-
ARGENTINE MILITARY RELATIONS AND SOVIET-ARGENTINE RELA-
TIONS. END SUMMARY.

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3. SETTING THE THEME OF HIS VISIT, AMBASSADOR SMITH STATED
THAT CONTINUING THE WORK OF THE GOODPASTER MISSION HE
WISHED TO DO HIS BEST TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. IN HIS MANY
YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE HE HAD NOT SEEN A MORE

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SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, ONE IN WHICH THE US AND ARGENTINA SHARE IMPORTANT COMMON INTERESTS. FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR STATED HE FULLY AGREED. PRESIDENT VIDELA HAD ASSURED GENERAL GOODPASTER THAT ARGENTINA WAS A COUNTRY SOLIDLY IN THE WEST.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS. SMITH ASKED ABOUT THE OUTLOOK. PASTOR SAID THERE WOULD BE FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS. DISAPPEARANCES WERE DEFINITELY OVER. PRISONERS HELD IN EXECUTIVE DETENTION CONTINUE TO BE RELEASED OR PROCESSED AND THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THAT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR THE APPROXIMATELY 1300 PEN PRISONERS HELD NOW BY THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE REDUCED BY HALF. ON RIGHT OF OPTION, HOWEVER, PASTOR WAS RETICENT: THE PROGRAM IS MOVING SLOWLY, HE ADMITTED, MOSTLY FROM FEAR THAT --AS HAS HAPPENED SEVERAL TIMES ALREADY, HE SAID--OPTIONED PRISONERS MIGHT RETURN TO ARGENTINA AND PLAN NEW TERRORIST ACTS.

5. AMBASSADOR SMITH ASKED ABOUT RUMORS THAT SEVERAL YOUNG PERSONS ABDUCTED IN AUGUST AND SUBSEQUENTLY ALLOWED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THEIR FAMILIES HAD AGAIN FALLEN SILENT. PASTOR CLAIMED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE AFFAIR, LEADING TO A SIDE DISCUSSION OF WAYS IN WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN OF THE EMBASSY ARE PROCESSED AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

6. SMITH SAID THE PROGRESS GOA HAD MADE WAS WELL RECOGNIZED. WE WERE STILL CONCERNED OVER THE SLOWNESS OF THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY CASES WHERE US

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CERTIFICATS OF ELIGIBILITY HAD BEEN ISSUED. IF WE DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS, WE NEED TO SEE MORE "BLUE SKY" IN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS.

7. UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING AT GENEVA. GOA--OR AT LEAST THE FOREIGN MINISTRY--IS STILL IN HIGH DUDGEON OVER ACTIVITIES OF THE US DELEGATION TO THE COMMISSION, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF USREP SHESTACK. FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR SAID THAT EARLY ON SUNDAY MORNING (MARCH 23) TWO BOMBS HAD GONE OFF AT ARGENTINA'S GENEVA DELEGATION HEADQUARTERS--PROOF THAT TERRORISTS STILL ARE ACTIVE AGAINST GOA, HOWEVER UNWILLING OTHER GOVERNMENTS MIGHT BE TO CREDIT THEIR EXISTENCE. PASTOR WAS MOST PARTICULARLY IRRITATED THAT THE USDEL AT GENEVA HAD LOBBIED AGAINST A 12B RESOLUTION WHICH HAD BEEN

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LABORED OVER AND AGREED "BY ALL THE OTHER DELEGATIONS," SAID PASTOR. THE US SIDE EVEN ASKED FOR A DELAY IN VOTING IN ORDER TO GAIN TIME FOR LOBBYING. IN A FINAL SESSION, PASTOR CHARGED, USREP SHESTACK SAID TO THE CUBAN DELEGATE--BUT LOUDLY ENOUGH THAT OTHERS HEARD-- SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT "PEOPLE TRAINED IN CUBA HAVE BEEN TORTURED IN ARGENTINE PRISONS."

8. WE REPLIED THAT UNDERSTANDINGS GAINED AT THE TIME OF THE GOODPASTER VISIT HAD BEEN HONORED, AND THAT ARGENTINA'S FOLLOWING SOVIET POSITIONS ON SEVERAL QUESTIONS--THE SAKHAROV MATTER, FOR EXAMPLE--HAD LOOKED UNSEEMLY TO US.

9. PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRACY. PASTOR REPLIED TO AMBASSADOR SMITH'S INQUIRY ABOUT THE PACE OF RETURN TO DEMOCRACY WITH A LITANY OF HORRORS COMMITTED BY ARGENTINA'S LAST ELECTED GOVERNMENT AND OPTIMISTIC WORDS ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION. THE COUNTRY WOULD, HE ASSURED, CONTINUE TO MOVE TOWARD DEMOCRACY--BUT THIS TIME IT WOULD BE ONE THAT WOULD BE STABLE AND EFFECTIVE.

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EFFORTS WOULD CONTINUE TO REFORM ARGENTINA'S FRAGMENTED PARTY STRUCTURE. THE MEANS OF DOING THIS WOULD BE THE DIALOGUE DUE TO BEGIN IN JUST TWO DAYS, ON MARCH 26. THE POLITICAL BASES DEVISED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLISHED LAST DECEMBER, AS ELABORATED IN TWO VIDELA SPEECHES, FORM THE TRACK ALONG WHICH THE REFORMS ARE TO RUN.

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 10 A N D 15

10. NUCLEAR AFFAIRS. OUR EFFORTS WERE CONCENTRATED ON TRYING TO ELEVATE ARGENTINE SIGHTS FROM PROBLEMS OVER SAFEGUARDS AND EXPORT CONTROLS--WHICH TO GOA SEEM TO INVOLVE US HARASSMENT--TO THE MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEM OF COUNTERING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION ON A GLOBAL SCALE. NOTING THAT ARGENTINA MAY WELL BECOME A SUPPLIER OF MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY IN TEN YEARS OR SO WE TRIED TO DIRECT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S THINKING TOWARD WORLD-WIDE CONTROL OF DANGEROUS MATERIALS. PASTOR COUNTERED WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT ARGENTINA WANTS ONLY TO PROVIDE THE NUCLEAR ENERGY THE COUNTRY NEEDS IN AREAS WHERE

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HYDRO-ELECTRIC ENERGY IS INSUFFICIENT. HE INVITED US TO KEEP LOOKING AT THE COUNTRY'S ENERGY PLAN TO EASE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE LEGITIMACY OF ARGENTINA'S EFFORTS, AND ALSO TO CONSIDER THAT ARGENTINA'S "JUST-CONCLUDED NUCLEAR ACCORD" WITH BRAZIL REMOVES ANY IDEA THAT MIGHT EVER HAVE OCCURRED THAT NUCLEAR RIVALRY BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL MIGHT TEMPT TOWARD AREMS PRODUCTION.

11. NUCLEAR AFFAIRS: TLADELOLCO. PASTOR SAID IT WEIGHS ON HIM TO HAVE PRESIDENT VIDELA'S COMMITMENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER TO RATIFY TLADELOLCO REMAIN UNFULFILLED. EFFORTS

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BY THE US WITH EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS TO BRAKE THE ARGENTINE NUCLEAR PROGRAM HAD LED HOWEVER, HE SAID, TO A CLIMATE IN WHICH RATIFICATION WAS POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. AMBASSADOR SMITH DESCRIBED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR CONCERN FOR PROPER SAFEGUARDS AND ANY IDEA OF SABOTAGING ARGENTINA'S PROGRAM. THE ISSUE HOWEVER, HE SAID, WAS THAT TLAZELOLCO DESERVES RATIFICATION FOR ITS OWN MERITS--NOT AS SOMETHING WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ARGENTINE-US RELATIONS.

12. MILITARY RELATIONS. PASTOR HELD UP THE HUMPHREY-KENNEDY AMENDMENT BARRING ARGENTINA'S BUYING US MILITARY EQUIPMENT AS "CAUSING SUSPICIONS" ABOUT THE UNITED STATES AS A SUPPLIER IN OTHER AREAS. PASTOR CLAIMED MANY ARGENTINES ASKED IN THE WAKE OF THE HODGES VISIT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN HERE IF THE US WERE TO "RETURN TO EARLIER POLICIES" AND LEAVE ARGENTINA WITHOUT SPARE PARTS FOR EQUIPMENT THAT THE ALLIS CHALMERS COMPANY MIGHT PROVIDE FOR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS. SMITH REPLIED THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE MORE IMPROVEMENT IN ARGENTINA'S RECORD OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BEFORE GETTING DOWN TO REPEALING HUMPHREY-KENNEDY. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID,

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THERE IS BEFORE THE CONGRESS AN AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT DESIGNED TO PERMIT THE PRESIDENT TO WAIVE "LEGISLATED FOREIGN POLICY," AND THAT IN TIME MIGHT GIVE SOME FLEXIBILITY TO THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO ARGENTINA.

13. ARGENTINE-SOVIET RELATIONS. PASTOR DESCRIBED AN ARGENTINE FOREIGN POLICY "ROOTED IN THE WEST" BUT WITH BRANCES IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENTS AND TOWARD GOOD--IF CIRCUMSCBIED--RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. ARGENTINA HOWEVER WILL NOT, SAID PASTOR, SEEK ANY "PERMANENT BALANCE" BETWEEN EAST AND WEST--THUS PLANS FOR A VIDELA TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION HAVE BEEN DROPPED, EVEN THOUGH SYMMETRY WOULD INDICATE (SINCE VIDELA WILL VISIT CHINA AND AT SOME POINT THE MIDDLEEAST, AND HAS ALREADY BEEN TO JAPAN) THAT HE INCLUDE MOSCOW) THE KNOTTY PROBLEM OF THE MOMENT, PASTOR, SAID, IS NEGOTIATING A FISHING AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION: ARGENTINA WOULD RATHER "SELL OUR FISH TO THE RUSSIANS THAT HAVE THE STEAL IT," BUT ON THE OTHER HAND IS LOTH TO CONCEDE FISHING PORT RIGHTS.

14. OTHER TOPICS. PASTOR RAISED THE DEFENSE OF THE

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SOUTH ATLANTIC, AND THE NEED FOR BETTER DEFENSE PLANNING FOR THE AREA AMONG BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND THE US. OUR CONCERNS OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF A COUP IN BOLIVIA ARE COVERED SEPTEL.

15. PRINCIPAL ARGENTINE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MARCH 24 CONVERSATION WERE FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR, DEPUTY MINISTER CAVANDOLI, AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL AND JUAN CARLOS JIMENEZ MELO, RECENTLY APPOINTED INTERIM DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL COORDINATION. ACCOMPANYING AMBASSADORS SMITH AND CASTRO TO THE MINISTRY WERE CLAUS RUSER (ARA/ECA), ALLEN LOCKE AND EMBASSY POL COUNSELOR HALLMAN. THE MEETING BEGAN AT 1000 AND CONCLUDED AT 1225.

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